

Message Text

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66/45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03 NSC-05

TRSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 /044 W

----- 042748

R 151100Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6807

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 6192

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAG AND PASSING INSTRUCTIONS ADDED).

FOR ARA/MGT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN CGEN EFIN ETRD AFSP, BR

SUBJECT: EFFECTS OF GOB TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF: BRASILIA 5879

1. SUMMARY. SINCE IMPOSITION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, EMBASSY AND CONGENS HAVE BEEN CLOSELY MONITORING VISA WORKLOADS AND HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH LEADING TRAVEL AGENTS. CONGENS REPORT NIVS 30 TO 40 PERCENT BELOW PROJECTED FIGURES FOR JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN SAO PAULO REPORTS: NONIMMIGRANT VISA ISSUANCE HAS BEEN DECLINING STEADILY. EACH WEEK, FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 2 (ON A WEIGHTED AVERAGE BECAUSE FIVE DAYS WERE NOT WORKED EACH WEEK), ISSUANCE WAS AS FOLLOWS: 1982, 1700, 1697, 1571 AND 1013. THE TOTAL WORKLOAD FOR JUNE WAS 6815, COMPARED WITH 8527 IN JUNE 1975. TOTAL FOR JUNE 1976 WAS 30 PERCENT BELOW WHAT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED

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TRENDS EXISTING PRIOR TO IMPOSITION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS. MAY 1976 ON THE OTHER HAND WAS 89.6 PERCENT OVER MAY 1975.

3. A RECENT SURVEY OF SOME OF SAO PAULO'S LARGEST TRAVEL AGENCIES FOUND THEM VERY GLOOMY ABOUT THEIR PROSPECTS. A MANAGER OF THE LEADING AGENCY PREDICTED A 70-80 PERCENT

FALL-OFF IN HIS BUSINESS, WHICH IS MOSTLY TOURISM OVERSEAS. BUSINESSMEN AND 20 PERCENT OF THE TOURISTS WILL CONTINUE TO TRAVEL, HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT HIS FIRM IS NOW CONCENTRATING EFFORTS ON PROMOTION OF DOMESTIC TOURISM AND IS NO LONGER ACTIVELY PROMOTING OVERSEAS TOURS SUCH AS TO DISNEYLAND. ALL AGENTS CONTACTED STATED THAT THE CR\$ 12,000 PRIOR DEPOSIT IS NOT AFFECTING THEIR BUSINESS NEARLY AS MUCH AS THE GECAM COMMUNICATIONS 313 PROHIBITING REMITTANCES ABROADUOF PAYMENTS FOR HOTELS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. GECAM COMMUNICATION 313 HAS APPARENTLY KILLED THE BUSINESS FOR LARGE CHARTERED TOURS AND PROBABLY WIPED OUT MOST AGENCIES' WHOLESALE BUSINESS. AGENTS ALSO BELIEVE EFFECT OF THE DEPOSIT ALONE COULD HAVE BEEN MITIGATED BY ARRANGING INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OR FINANCING BUT SEE NO WAY TO GET AROUND THE PROHIBITIOKRORREMITTANCES.V9-4. CONGEN RIO DE JANEIRO REPORTS: DURING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1976, CONGEN EXPERIENCED AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 30 PERCENT IN ISSUANCES, COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. FOR JUNE, 1976, HOWEVER, CONGEN ISSUED 8 PERCENT FEWER VISAS THAN IN JUNE OF 1975 (4800 VERSUS 4500). WHILE THE ESTABLISHED PERCENTAGE OF DECREASE IS NOT LARGE, JUNE IS NORMALLY BUSIEST MONTH. CONGEN RIO CALCULATES THE OVERALL DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN ACTUAL VISAS ISSUED AND PROJECTED NORMAL TRAFFIC FOR THE MONTH TO BE 40 PERCENT.

5. THE EFFECTS OF DECREE LAW 1470 AND COMPLEMENTARY DECREES HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO MAKE THEMSELVES FELT IN BRASILIA. VISA ISSUANCE BY THE EMBASSY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1-30 WAS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO ISSUANCE DURING THE SAMDCPERIOD LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT WAS EXPECTED. THE PRINCIPAL IMPACT HAS BEEN REGISTERED FROM JULY 1, HOWEVER. JULY 1-JULY 13 VISA ISSUANCE WAS ONLY 45 PERCENT OF THE FIGURE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1975.

CRIMMINS
UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL06192
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760275-0736
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaervt.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2005 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFECTS OF GOB TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS
TAGS: EGEN, CGEN, EFIN, ETRD, AFSP, BR
To: STATE
INFO RIO DE JANEIRO
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006